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MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1948.

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CAIRO TRAIN OUTRAGE WAS ACT OF REVENGE

War For This Year Forecast

Copenhagen, Feb. 29.—M. Aage Toldnaes, a Dane who claims to be able to foretell the future, told a newspaper here that two big countries would be involved in another war this year.

A third country would start it, he said. He claimed that Marshal Stalin was against another war, but that the other great powers were working towards one.

Mr. Toldnaes said he had looked into the future and had seen men in foreign costumes carrying knives turned forward.—Reuter.

Heavy Water Bootleggers Arrested

Munich, Feb. 29.—Eleven men have been arrested on charges of "bootlegging" heavy water—used in atomic experiments. It was disclosed yesterday.

Identity of the arrested men—some of whom were non-Germans—was kept secret. The authorities said this was because "further developments" are expected.

U.S. public safety officers confirmed that German police had smashed a ring of operators.

American authorities are taking an interest in the grounds that the ration of heavy water to atomic energy lifts the case out of the local German category.

German police said that eight aluminium flasks of the precious liquid were salvaged from Norway in spite of the British wartime commando raids which smashed German testing equipment there.

BURIED IN GARDEN

They told this story.

The flasks were brought to Munich University in 1945. A science professor buried them in his garden. He was killed by a shell a few days later.

The professor's wife remembered the flasks two years later and last year made a deal to sell each flask for 40,000 marks (£1,000).

A Yugoslav contact man turned a sample over to a Spanish chemist. He found the liquid to be genuine.

Recently the German criminal police stumbled on the activities of the ring and one investigator posed as an interested buyer. When the deal was made the operators were arrested.—Associated Press.

Kashmir Raiders Repulsed

London, Feb. 29.—Fifty-nine raiders were killed when an Indian Army patrol made several bayonet charges in a night attack near Naushera, Kashmir, New Delhi Radio reported.

The raiders were driven off and several machine gun posts were destroyed, the Radio added.—Reuter.

EDITORIAL

Communism's Threat

THE swift Communist coup in Czechoslovakia (manifestly inspired and directed by Moscow) followed by the thinness of thinly veiled ultimatums to Finland are positive signs that Russia is preparing for a final break with her democratic wartime allies and that she intends to dominate as much of Europe as she can before the next shooting match begins. Stalin has personally indicated to the Finns that they would be well advised to enter into a defensive alliance with the Soviets, and the meaning of such a note cannot be mistaken. The alliance will be the prelude to another political push which will see the Finnish Communist party, at present in a hopeless minority, become rulers of the State. Nor does there appear to be any way of preventing such a coup. It can be anticipated that if the Finnish people attempted to resist the political moves now being planned by Finland's Communists and Moscow, Stalin would regard this as sufficient reason for undisguised interference in the shape of armed coercion. That might be risky, but on general appearances, no more so than when Hitler invaded in similar tactics with Austria, Memel and Czechoslovakia. The Communists have proved themselves expert in the art of political divide and rule and everything points to Finland being the next victim of this technique. But a more crucial

28 British Soldiers Killed

Jerusalem, Feb. 29.—Three mines exploded with terrific impact today under three railway sleeper cars crowded with British soldiers, killing 28 of them and injuring 33 others.

British authorities blamed Jews, and the Jewish underground Stern Gang said it had blown up the train in retaliation for the Jerusalem bombing which killed 54 Jews last Sunday.

"This is our answer for last Sunday's Ben Yehuda Street crime," a Sternist announcement declared. Jews have blamed the British for the Jerusalem bombing despite British denials and Arab claims of responsibility for it.

The three railway sleepers were on the Cairo Express north-bound from Cairo to Haifa. The blast occurred a mile and a half north of Rehovet, a Jewish citrus belt town 15 miles southeast of the Jewish coastal city of Tel-Aviv.

An Army spokesman said electrical detonated mines shattered the wooden cars, which were jammed with soldiers returning from leave in Cairo.

SPINTERED WOOD and twisted splinters from the demolished coaches splattered over nearby orange groves. The agonised cries of the dying and wounded rent the air in that isolated section of the coastal plain.

The track rails were twisted grotesquely and were tangled in the debris of the train itself.

Ambulances converged on the scene over snipe-infested roads from nearby Arab and Jewish towns.

The Army spokesman said four mines were planted but one failed to go off. The other three were spaced so they went off directly underneath each of the three coaches.

Lieutenant General G. H. Macmillan, Commander of British forces in Palestine, reported from the blast area that the toll would have been "50 or more" if the fourth mine had detonated.

Sappers who dismantled the dud mine said it contained 100 pounds of ammonal explosive and was connected by a 40 yard wire to a plunger.

The Cairo Express has been a target for attack three times before. The day also brought deaths and violence to other parts of Palestine. Unofficial Jewish sources in Tel-Aviv said six Jews were killed when a reconnaissance party of the Hagana army was ambushed in the village of Salame near Tel-Aviv. The bodies were recovered by British police.

Eight Jews believed to be Stern Gang members robbed the Jerusalem Municipality Office of US\$3,200.—Associated Press.

RESCUE WORK CONTINUES

Reuter adds that it was not known if there were any civilian casualties and it was feared that the final death toll might be heavier.

A Jewish eyewitness said the shattered coaches were lying on both sides of the railway lines.

As darkness fell tonight, rescuers were still digging in the wreckage for victims. The rescue workers were guided by the cries of the injured buried and trapped under the wreckage.

A Jewish boy scout gave first aid to the injured and Jewish ambulances helped to transport the victims to the military hospital.

Wrecked telephone lines hampered the speedy summoning of help.

BRITISH WARNING

The outrage occurred as a military headquarters proclamation issued here warned the population of Jerusalem that the British Army is prepared to use "weapons more powerful than those available to the Arabs or the Jews" to stop the Arab-Jewish fighting in the city.

"In encounters of this kind where it is impossible to decide which side is the aggressor, the Army will therefore use its weapons impartially against whichever side is firing.

"The object will be to stop the fighting at once with a minimum loss of life. This is an impartial warning to both sides. The only way to avoid clashes with the Army and the casualties which must necessarily result is by not participating in any battles in the Jerusalem area as the Army will now intervene at every opportunity," the proclamation concluded.

A delayed action barrel bomb, rolled from its Arab launch, blew up a Jewish house at Beit Dajan, southeast of Jaffa, last night, injuring one Jew, it was officially reported today.

Police headquarters reported that two Jewish prisoners dressed themselves in warders' uniforms and tried to walk out of Jerusalem's Central Prison today. They were detected before they cleared the main gate, and were sent back to their cells.

PWD HOLD-UP

Armed Jews today took over at pistol point the office of the Palestine Government Public Works Department in the Jewish quarter of Jerusalem and occupied the building for four hours.

The office, which is in the Street of the Prophets, was thoroughly searched while the staff was lined up against the walls with their hands raised.

They left after taking possession of documents, explosives, surveying instruments and some motorcycles, to a total value of £10,000.

While the raid was in progress, armed Jews, described as Irgun, Zvai Leumi members, kept guard in the courtyard and patrolled the streets outside.

A Jewish illegal immigrant ship, the "Builders and Fighters" with about 1,000 illegal immigrants on board, has been bonded off the Palestine coast by units of the Royal Navy and is now steaming under escort to Haifa.

The ship was reported yesterday to have been intercepted by the Royal Navy after being spotted by British patrolling aircraft.—Reuter.

SHELLS AGAINST SNIPERS

Jerusalem, Feb. 29.—Two-pounder shells were fired in Jerusalem tonight by the British Army to silence Jewish snipers—the first time the British have used weapons of this calibre inside the city.—Reuter.

Milton Reynolds Sets Out To Find A Mountain

Chicago, Feb. 29.—Millionaire pen manufacturer Milton Reynolds, set out today to see if he can find a mountain higher than 29,000 foot Mount Everest.

With a small group of scientists and his plane crew, Reynolds took off from Municipal airport on the first leg of a flight to China.

The group, in a specially equipped four-engine C-87 named the Explorer, planned to land tonight at Palm Springs, Calif. Reynolds said he expected to start the over-water part of the flight from San Francisco on Tuesday after a final check of plane and equipment. The itinerary includes Honolulu, Manila, Okinawa, Tokyo and Shanghai. The expedition plans to map and measure the Amnie Machin mountains of Tsinzhal province in Northwestern China.

Reynolds said he believes the range has several of the highest peaks in the world, but it has never been explored thoroughly because it is virtually inaccessible.—Associated Press.

Stabilisation Loan For China Unlikely

ATTITUDE OF U.S. OFFICIALS

Washington, Feb. 29.—Informed consensus here is that there is virtually no possibility of the Chinese Government securing any currency stabilisation loan in the United States in the foreseeable future.

Despite the increasing Republican clamour for aid to China beyond the \$570,000,000 commodity and reconstruction programme under Congressional consideration, well informed sources in close touch with all aspects of the situation said they were certain in a final analysis that no source here would be willing to take the responsibility for such a loan at present.

It is understood that most Administration officials believe that the current Republican demands for larger scale aid to China such as those being advanced by Senators Robert Taft and Styles Bridges are designed for political effect rather than stemming from any basic intention to attempt to secure more money for the Nanking government.

MUST STRIKE BALANCE

The consensus amongst informed officials is that any Administration attempt to get Congress to vote a stabilisation loan on top of the \$570,000,000 commodity and reconstruction grant probably would result in defeat for both plans.

The official consensus here is that all efforts to stabilize the Chinese currency through foreign loans or other "external mechanism" would prove of no avail until the Nanking government is able to bring its expenditures and tax receipts into something approximating balance.

Meanwhile, experts pointed out that the only two possible sources outside of Congress for any Chinese stabilisation loan are the Export-Import Bank and the World Bank, both of which already have ruled themselves out of the picture.

Export-Import Bank officials decided flatly against the possibility of making any such loan, firstly because they think it would be useless under the present economic conditions in China and, secondly, because they interpreted the Bank's charter as prohibiting that type of loan.

The Bank cannot make a stabilisation loan to China because that country has been unable to maintain any definite par value of its currency which is one of the prerequisites to the international bank advancing stabilisation funds.

ALTERNATIVE ACTION

It is considered possible that demand by Republican Congressmen might result in some additions to the military equipment assistance and the issuance of directives which would permit the American military mission in China to operate closer to field level.

However, it is expected that the Administration may soon attempt to show the full scale of its military equipment provided the Chinese under surplus property, deals and in other forms during the past two years. Whether this would have the effect of heading off Republican demands for military aid is not certain.

These sources asserted that their analysis of the Congressional sentiment on China aid disclose that although there are a number of vociferous Republican proponents of increased aid to Nanking, the general economy sentiment of the majority of Congressmen may be judged by their approach to China aid plans. They said they believed that when a showdown came there would be no general disposition amongst Congressmen to go further than the present Administration programme envisages.

NOT ACCEPTABLE

Commenting on reports that the Chinese might come up with a plan for an indirect attack on the currency problem which would envisage a United States loan to be put at the disposal of a Chinese foreign exchange equalisation committee in Shanghai, instead of being devoted to specific purposes, bolstering the currency, the sources said this would not be considered any more

acceptable than a direct stabilisation loan request.

They said it would be considered merely an attempt to disguise the question and most administration officials would still see it as "nothing more than a credit" for the government to draw upon.—United Press.

Mosley's Men Howled Down

Meeting Broken Up

London, Feb. 29.—Police tonight dispersed in uproar a North London meeting called by supporters of the new Union Movement organised by Sir Oswald Mosley, former leader of the British Union of Fascists.

The meeting, which was to have inaugurated an electioneering campaign in support of Union Movement candidates to be nominated for local council elections, only lasted 10 minutes. Mounted and foot police intervened.

The audience, consisting mainly of young Jews, allowed the meeting to open. But a few minutes later, there was a cry of "Down with the Fascists" and the crowd surged forward, smashed notice-boards and tore up pamphlets.

When the police formed a cordon around the organisers and the crowds chanted "Close the meeting" and "Get back to Germany" one of the organisers called "See what is happening in Czechoslovakia, and amid another uproar, the crowd rushed forward again.

The police forced them back and announced that the meeting must be closed.

Five men will appear before the magistrates tomorrow.—Reuter.

CURFEW IMPOSED IN ACCRA

Accra, Gold Coast, Feb. 29.—A 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. curfew was imposed here today as more police were drafted into Accra after yesterday's rioting in which two African ex-servicemen were killed and 23 injured.

Yesterday's clashes occurred when the Africans were marching to petition the Governor on grievances, including unemployment and the imprisonment of African servicemen court-martialed in Burma.

Stones were thrown. The police used tear gas and shots were fired. In the rioting which followed Europeans were attacked, vehicles damaged, shops looted and a big department store set ablaze.—Reuter.

U.S. Plan To Admit 100,000 European Refugees Into Country

Washington, Feb. 29.—The admission of 100,000 European refugees into the United States over a two-year period, starting on July 1 this year, is recommended by a majority report of a five-man United States Senate Judiciary Subcommittee, due to be published tomorrow.

The plan may be changed before the full committee submits its recommendations to the Senate.

A copy of the report, handed to newspapermen today, showed that two members, Senators John Cooper (Republican of Kentucky) and Howard McGrath (Democrat of Rhode Island) disagreed with the majority.

Senator Cooper urged that 150,000 persons be admitted over a two-year

Consolidation Of Soviet Bloc In Europe Promised

Paris, Feb. 29.—New steps towards the consolidation of the Russian bloc of Eastern European states were promised by M. Vladimir Clementis, the Czechoslovak Deputy Foreign Minister, in a message today to L'Humanite, the French Communist newspaper.

M. Clementis stated: "We have the intention within the next few weeks of completing our system of alliance by signing treaties, particularly with Bulgaria and Rumania.

"Nothing has changed our desire to collaborate with the Western States by concluding bilateral agreements with them in the realm of national sovereignty."

Of future events in Czechoslovakia, M. Clementis said: "The new system will not cause any fundamental changes. The new Gottwald Cabinet will realise, as rapidly as possible, the programme which it planned and whose realisation was confided to it by the last elections.

"We will continue with these free elections, which will take place on a date to be fixed by the law."

"In the domain of exterior policy, we will continue to rely on our treaties of alliances, which have been directed against the possibility of a renaissance of Germany or of any of Germany's allies, no matter who they may be."

TO STAY DEMOCRATIC

The Paris paper, L'Ordre, today published an interview with M. Jan Masaryk, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, who said: "Czechoslovakia is and remains a democratic state which wishes lasting peace. We do not wish Europe to be divided into two camps."

Reports published in Paris that the British, American and French military attaches in Prague had been told by General Svobeda, the Czech Minister of National Defence, that their presence in Prague was undesirable were denied by the Czechoslovak Embassy here today.

The denial said the military attaches had not been interrogated by General Svobeda, nor had the question of an anti-Czech plot been discussed with them.—Reuter.

GOTTWALD'S PROMISE

Prague, Feb. 29.—Premier Klement Gottwald today promised the nation's farmers ownership of up to 120 acres of the land they cultivate, but said Czechoslovakia will not adopt the Soviet system of collective farms.

He and his Minister of Agriculture, Julius Duris, presented the new Communist-led government's plans for agricultural reform at a rally in Wenceslas Square.

Duris outlined a 10-point programme of land reform. It included subsidies for farmers to be taken from the yield of profitable industries and large loans to help farmers and their wives mechanise their farms and homes.

Gottwald called upon the farmers to produce more food so Czechoslovakia could fulfil her two-year plan for industrial development.—Associated Press.

DIFFICULT HOURS AHEAD

Prague, Feb. 29.—M. Edenek Fierlinger, Czechoslovakia's new Social Democrat Minister of Industry, today warned of "difficult hours" ahead and called for the defence of innocent people who might otherwise suffer in the purges.

The Minister, who led the Leftwing revolt in his party and rounded a large part of it into line with the new National Front programme sponsored by the Communists, wrote in his party journal, Prave Lidi: "Now we have to strengthen anew

the shaken confidence of our followers.

"We have to protect them against the consequences of the intervention going on everywhere. It is our duty to defend all those who might otherwise suffer innocently and are injured, though guiltless."—Reuter.

DEMOCRATIC SETTLEMENT

Prague, Feb. 29.—The Czechoslovak people is "fundamentally democratic and will remain so," M. Jan Masaryk, the Czechoslovak Foreign Minister, in his first pronouncement since the crisis, told a French correspondent today.

He said the crisis was started by people who wrongly thought it was possible to govern without or even against the Communists and added: "It was settled in a democratic and constitutional way."

The Foreign Minister said: "I always went with the people and will go with them now."

"I joined this Government out of a democratic conviction and I will serve our new democracy as long as necessary and as long as my strength allows."—Reuter.

MRP RESOLUTION

Paris, Feb. 29.—A resolution condemning the "coup d'etat" committed in Prague against democracy and the installation of a minority dictatorship was passed tonight by the National Committee of the Popular Republican (MRP) Party.

The Committee adopted another resolution pledging support to the Prime Minister, M. Robert Schuman, for his "courage" and disinterestedness in vigorously pursuing the economic restoration of France and his fight against rising prices.—Reuter.

"SECOND MUNICH"

Paris, Feb. 29.—M. Gaston Palewski, General de Gaulle's "right hand man" and a former executive of his Rally of the French people, said at Bayonne, south-western France, today that the war-time Yalta Pact was the "Second Munich" and the Communist seizure of power in Czechoslovakia was its aftermath.

To counteract the "Soviet expansion" which threatened the world's peace, he suggested the inauguration of a European federation capable of re-establishing prosperity and creating a strategically solid bloc.

He urged his hearers to "hasten the accession of the Rally of the French People to power in France by demanding the dissolution of the present National Assembly and the elimination of the Third Force (the grouping of Communist parties)" which has taken the wrong road.—Reuter.

HUNGARIAN FUSION

Budapest, Feb. 29.—M. Arpad Szakaszi, the Hungarian Socialist leader who hitherto opposed a fusion of the Hungarian Communists and the Social Democratic parties, today announced in an editorial in the newspaper Nepszava that a fusion of the two parties would take place at the Social Democrat Party Congress starting on March 6.—Reuter.

The bill suggested by the three senators in the majority report specifies that at least half of the displaced persons admitted must be natives of countries taken over by a foreign power.

All such persons would have to qualify under the United States immigration laws for permanent residence in the United States and they would have to possess a skill needed in the area in which they intend to live.

Fifty per cent of the total admitted would have to have agricultural training.—Reuter.

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in "THE GARDEN OF ALLAH"

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he sings! he dances!

JOHNSON WILLIAMS BALL WYNN

men's Easy to Wed

TECHNICOLOR

HONGKONG AN OASIS OF PROSPERITY

BY
MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE

Mr Muggeridge recently visited this part of the world to study the changed social and economic conditions brought about by the war and its aftermath. This article was written for the Daily Telegraph (London).

HONGKONG is to be the Far East very much what Switzerland is to Europe—a little oasis of prosperity and stability in a largely chaotic continent.

Its shops are full of consumer goods; its currency, the Hongkong dollar, amid the vast inflation of China, is stable and everywhere acceptable, circulating throughout South China, where it provides the most satisfactory, and often the only reliable, means of exchange.

On this barren rock, which British enterprise and administration have transformed into a thriving port, law and order prevail when all around there is lawlessness and civil strife.

There is a police force whose higher ranks, at any rate, are beyond suspicion of corruption, and a Civil Service which since V.J.-Day has coped vigorously and competently with the problems of reconstruction.

The prices of necessities are effectively controlled, and the destruction of property due to the war, to the Japanese occupation, and, perhaps most of all, to an orgy of Chinese looting which followed Japan's collapse, is in process of being made good.

Cars to Nylons

ANYTHING from the most expensive motor-car to nylon stockings, can be freely bought. Food in the hotels and restaurants is lavish, varied and by contemporary standards not expensive. Housing is desperately short, both for Europeans and Asiatics, partly in consequence of the unending influx of refugees from China. There are no signs of malnutrition. The harbour is full of shipping, and business of every sort is thriving.

If such conditions seem particularly impressive, it is by contrast with China, which is rapidly falling into a condition of irretrievable disorder and misery. A long-drawn-out war with Japan and a civil war which shows no signs of abating have effectively wrecked the national economy. Nor has the National Government given any indication of being able to deal with this situation. The present tendency is for it to decline in prestige, in competence and, unhappily, in reputation for integrity. American dollars may suffice to keep it in existence, but can scarcely revive its sinking fortunes.

With covert Russian and Chinese Communist "experts" to get control of Manchuria and perhaps extend their influence to the Yellow River, before this year is out.

Heavy Immigration

IT is not surprising, in these circumstances, that there has been, and continues to be, heavy Chinese immigration into Hongkong. Under the Japanese occupation its population declined to about 500,000, but has subsequently been increased by the influx of at least a million refugees from the mainland.

The greater part of these refugees have been starving and landless peasants, victims of the civil war, but they have included some thousands of middle-class and wealthy Chinese seeking security from political instability and persecution and the possibility of investing their money without fear of currency depreciation or excessive taxation and levies amounting to confiscation.

Refugees are still coming in at the astonishing, and to the authorities alarming, rate of 100,000 monthly.

It is indeed an ironical circumstance that while in China, and to a certain extent in Hongkong itself, propaganda favouring the return of the colony to Chinese jurisdiction is being carried on, more than a million Chinese should have to use Lenin's graphic phrase—"voiced with their feet"—in favour of living under British administration. There can be little doubt that many more would have come had it been possible.

Though the Hongkong authorities have no right under the terms of the treaty of 1860, whereby the island was ceded in perpetuity to the British Government, to restrict immigration, in the interest of the refugees themselves, and of public hygiene in the colony, they have been forced at any rate as far as possible to discourage it.

Leased Territory

IN addition to the island of Hongkong, under the Anglo-Chinese Convention of 1898, the British Government acquired on a 99 years' lease a small portion of the mainland opposite.

This territory included the minute walled city of Kowloon, which it was agreed should continue to be under Chinese jurisdiction provided military arrangements for the defence of Hongkong were not prejudiced. In fact, in consequence of the income tax and corruption of the Chinese administration, this provision had to be invoked almost at once. Kowloon City was therefore administered by the Hongkong Government up to December, 1941, when the Japanese occupied the colony.

The Japanese, during their occupation of Hongkong, reduced Kowloon City to rubble as part of a scheme to enlarge the Kai Tak Airport.

Squatters Menace

WHEN the British returned, squatters, unable to find accommodation elsewhere, built themselves precarious and unwholesome dwellings among this rubble. Their numbers were such that their presence in Kowloon City constituted a serious danger to the physical well-being of the rest of the colony. Steps were taken, therefore, to remove them. As they resisted, it was necessary to use force.

It was this incident which led to popular demonstrations of protest in various parts of China, and to organised attacks on the British Consulate in Canton and other towns. By a curious illogicality the same Chinese who are lauded in their protests against Hongkong being under British administration are equally insistent that to deprive Chinese of the right to live under that administration is a monstrous wrong, quite irrespective of whether there is any possibility of providing them with requisite shelter and employment.

Commercially the colony is thriving as it has never thrived before. In the years before the war it was losing trade to Shanghai. Now it is the other way, and Shanghai's trade is moving to Hongkong.

Shanghai, indeed, since Japan's defeat, has been reduced to a melancholy condition of commercial stagnation, municipal incompetence, and corruption, and financial ruin.

The very streets are left unswept, and with the Chinese national dollar reaching fantastic levels of inflation, smuggling rampant, and the Chinese authorities seeking to impede rather than promote foreign commercial activities, normal trading has become difficult, if not impossible.

It is not surprising, in these circumstances, that the commercial community in Shanghai, Chinese as well as European, should look with envy at Hongkong.

They see there, under British administration, the requisite conditions for carrying on trade—a stable currency, port facilities unimpeded by unnecessary controls, and just laws justly administered. These conditions have enabled Hongkong to be prosperous when most of the rest of the world, and particularly the Far East, is in a state of economic confusion.

Confidence

EVEN American-occupied Japan finds in Hongkong the most convenient outlet for its slowly reviving production, as well as a useful market for the purchase of essential raw materials imported into the colony from other sterling areas.

Travelling about the Far East today it is impossible to resist the conclusion that the benefits of British administration, as exemplified in a colony like Hongkong, are more appreciated, and for that matter more needed, than ever before.

If the movement of people and of property be taken as an indication of where confidence lies, then there is more confidence in the future of Hongkong and Singapore, the remnants of Great Britain's once mighty Colonial Empire in Asia, than ever before. The banks are embarrassed by the funds which pour into them for investment, and the authorities by the immigrants for whom they must provide.

Shop Window

IT is an ironical circumstance, which future historians are likely to note, that as the area of British influence has contracted in the Far East so the pressure of population and investment capital on those areas where it is still operative has intensified.

The probability is that, if the Nanking Government had been less preoccupied with domestic conflict and the problem of reoccupying Manchuria when the war ended, a resolute attempt would have been made to prevent Hongkong reverting to its former status as a British colony.

To judge by its action in other directions the British Government would have been little inclined to resist such an attempt. In that case Hongkong would quickly have fallen into the same melancholy condition as Shanghai.

The Chinese Press is bitterly hostile to a continuance of British administration in Hongkong, and in that undoubtedly reflects the sentiments of the Nanking Government. Within the colony an agitation is being vigorously conducted in the same sense.

Whatever may happen in the future it cannot but be a source of satisfaction to a British visitor that the colony's present state should compare so favourably with conditions elsewhere. Hongkong has been described as Britain's shop window in the Far East. Never in its history has it shown up to better advantage than today.

BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

THRILL to the picturisation of 40,000 wild buffaloes pursuing the composer Wagner through the trackless swamps of the unexplored Amazon, while Mme. Brahms fights off the maddened natives of the Andes.

Nothing like this has ever been seen before in a musical film. It took sixteen coloured marble organs, each one hundred and twelve feet high, to play the Tannhauser overture, which is sung by the Minneapolis Choir, augmented to 11,591 voices. There is an earthquake, a battle between whales and tigers in an air-liner, an explosion in a powerhouse, a stampede of crayfish, a total eclipse of the sun, two forest fires, a landslide, and a fall of meteorites. And through it all, like Nature's lullaby, throbs the heart-searching music of Richard Wagner.

Left over
Dear reader, and would it surprise you, if while reading of this and of that, you discovered one more of these stanzas:
On the little round tickertape hat?

And again
1. What was your herbage of wuzzles in 1934? ... We want one plank, sir.
2. State condition of same when reaped? ... Oh, see above.
3. Average width of your wuzzles in 1937? ... Never have used wuzzles, ho yes.
4. Description of soil? ... We want one plank, sir.
5. Average yield per acre in 1937? ... Same ditto of above.
6. Average height, per ton per acre? ... Per, per, what good is this, please, Minister?

La Zaphroma in action
MME. ZAPHROMA, who can tear a pack of wolves in two with her bare hands, balance a ball-pole on her chest, and stun a rhinoceros with one backblow from her elbow, pleaded that she was only a weak little unprotected woman when the secret police accused her of forecasting the weather by illicit means. The poor little thing was so upset that she took the door of her room off its hinges, and banged the three policemen over the head with it. She then tucked one under each arm, tied the third round her neck, and took them back to their den. She told their superior beast that they had fainted while being told their fortunes.

Duet for zither
Up and down and back,
Up and down and back,
(Not only hither),
Up and down and back,
Up and down and back,
(But zither).



"I told you he stopped between floors if he doesn't get tipped!"

CULTURAL NEWSLETTER:

WAGNERIAN OPERA RE-ESTABLISHED IN LONDON

— BY R. C. WEETLOCK

LONDON, Feb. 25.
WAGNERIAN opera definitely re-established itself in London last week with production of Tristan and Isolde at Covent Garden Opera House. Kirston Flagstad singing the part of Isolde.

A start had been made with the Master-singers in January but the performance of Tristan in German was in many ways superior. Flagstad's brilliance, gave London its most exciting night of opera since before the war. Most critics were emphatic in their praise the only really cautious notice being written by Ernest Newman in the Sunday Times. It was undoubtedly Mme Flagstad's evening and it has been half-humourously suggested that instead of referring colloquially to the opera as Tristan we should in future call it Isolde. Her singing had a burnish that shed lustre on everything, a power that easily triumphed over the orchestra energetically conducted as it was by Karl Rankl.

Tristan was August Seidel, and although he looked the part and sang in cultivated style he was constantly overshadowed by his partner. Hans Hotter proved magnificent Kurwenal and two English artists who earned conspicuous success were Constance Shocklock, a resonant Brangäne, and Norman Walker, a noble and dignified King Mark.

New Plays

It has been busy and successful week also in the legitimate theatre. Perhaps the most remarkable play was the "Family Portrait" by two Americans, Lenore Coffee and W. Joyce Cowen, in which English actress Fay Compton gave a performance described by one critic as "one of major achievements of contemporary stage."

The family shown here is the family of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus of course does not appear on the stage, but the play shows us the reactions of his family to a career that ended on the cross. They are a very ordinary everyday bunch of people quite unaware for most part of Jesus' greatness, alternately irritated at his success as a preacher, irritated that he is not there to help them in their carpentry business and at the last dismayed and rather ashamed at his fate.

Another new play, "The Cockpit," by Bridget Roland, deals with mixed or group of displaced persons in a German theatre in 1945 and the difficulties of a British officer in trying to dispatch them east and west. They are all quarrelling among themselves until there is sudden scare of bubonic plague, when they become co-operative in the face of the

common enemy. There is no plaque, however, and as soon as the scare has passed they all begin to quarrel again. In its own way the play is quite as ironic as "Family Portrait."

The third new play in London last week was "The Gorbals Story" by Robert McLellan. The Gorbals is a notorious slum district in Glasgow. The play is performed by the Glasgow Unity Theatre Company, a repertory company, and it tells in homely style of the tragedies and humours of people who live in overcrowded homes.

Harrow History

"Harrow School—Yesterday And Today" by Dr E. Laborde (Winchester Publications, 30s.) is the book that will be of interest to old Harrovians all over the world. One of this number is Mr Winston Churchill, and another is Mr L. S. Amery, who has reviewed the book in the Sunday Times. Mr Amery praises the author's skill in recalling vividly certain aspects of the school's history and speaks highly of the admirable illustrations.

Mr Moore, the headmaster of Harrow, has described the book as "faithful and scrupulous guide to the buildings, houses and institutions of the school, their history, their arena, their embellishments and treasures and legends that cling to them."

Mr Amery recalls the true story of Mr Churchill being summoned before Dr Weidson, the then headmaster who said to him, "I've seen two letters in 'The Harrovian' not calculated to increase the respect of the boys for the constituted authorities of the school. I shall not dream of asking who wrote them, but if any more of the same sort appear it may be my painful duty to swish you!"

Lamb For Longevity

One of the best-loved figures in English literature is Charles Lamb, author of the Essays of Elia, and the annual birthday celebrations of the Charles Lamb Society last week had an appropriately friendly atmosphere.

Professor Basil Willey was the guest of honour and delivered the memorial lecture. He spoke of Lamb's lack of interest in politics—even the name of dreaded Napoleon Bonaparte only provoked him to witicism—and recalled that when people argued in Lamb's presence about public affairs he felt like a boy among grown-ups. On the other hand it is Lamb's wit and gentleness that have endeared him to posterity, and Professor Willey remarked that "we need Lamb as a corrective to state of mind that insists on fitting everything into the scheme of things."

It has been suggested that people influenced by charm and tranquillity of Lamb's writings live long. Several members of this Society are over 80 including Mr Walter Farrow, the chairman, and Mr Gilbert Coleridge who was 89 last week.

NANCY Turning the Tables



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Fitch's
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On Sale at Leading Stores.

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Women BEAUTY ARTS

This Space Every Day
By LOIS LEEDS



Posed for Lois Leeds.

Lois Leeds recommends the Sun for "what ails you!"

"DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am sixteen years old, very white skin and light hair. Should I use dark powder?"—SUSIE."

Face powder with a free-tan glow will most certainly be very becoming and it will tend to make your hair look lighter. You might also consider getting yourself a nice tan. A tanned blonde is always an attractive type.

"Dear Lois Leeds—My pores are so noticeable, coarse and ugly. Although my skin is slightly oily it is never bumpy or blotchy. How can I refine my skin?"—CLAIR."

First, think about your diet. Eat vegetables and fruit, drink milk, and get out in the air as much as possible. Cleanse your skin by using liquefied cleansing cream as well as soap and water. Purchase a pore cream and use it every night. The astringent quality of pore cream may set those pores to work in a more normal way, and the more they work the more "refined" they become. A patting once a week with an astringent lotion is also recommended.

Minute Makeups by GABRIELLE



When you have to make a Quick Change, take a facial cocktail. It will pep you up and put a glow in your cheeks and a sparkle in your eyes. Soap your face thoroughly. Massage in the astringent. Then rinse with cold water until your cheeks tingle. A dab of foundation cream, generous powdering and—you are on your way!

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"It was the funniest party ever—you should have seen the look on your boss's face when you pushed him into that fountain!"

"Painless" Dentist Soon Thanks To War Advances

The trip to the dentist soon may be a less unpleasant experience. "The painless dentist," more or less, is here at last. Science has developed a way to eliminate the pain of the drill.

Dr. Harold Hillenbrand, secretary of the American Dental Association, hailed progress in "pain control"—both in extractions and fillings—as one of the most significant of the wartime advances in dentistry.

The latest tool—which the war added to the kit of the "painless dentist"—is a diamond-tip drill.

The old style drill, usually made of hard steel, generated heat which would react on the nerves of the teeth and cause pain. The diamond drill produces little heat. Hence, no pain.

Dr. Hillenbrand said much progress had been made in local anæsthetics designed to deaden pain without endangering the patient. He said, however, the use of sodium pentothal is not yet advisable for the general dentist's chair, and this efficient drug should be administered only in hospital cases.

Solution Fails

"Hartman's solution," which stirred up enthusiasm a few years ago, proved a disappointment. It was an anæsthetic which was applied directly to the tooth. It was supposed to deaden the tooth while the dentist pulled it or worked on a filling. But the solution evaporated too quickly and lost its effectiveness.

Dr. Hillenbrand said children should be taught not to fear the dentist. He recommended that the child's first visit to the dentist's office should be made with a parent who is to have work done. That should be done when the child is about two years old.

It is a simple application of practical psychology, and the child may learn there is nothing to fear.



Mgr. Antoine Fourquet, Archbishop of Canton, who is going to France on leave after 52 years of mission work in Canton and Kwangtung Province. He is 73 years of age.

Women Barflies In America

America is becoming a nation of female barflies, an FBI official said.

Since 1941, 80,000 women have been convicted for drunkenness; 7,000 women were arrested for drunken driving; 8,000 women were arrested for other breaches of the liquor laws.

Said famous preacher Dr. Warren Hastings: "God help us if the next generation follows in the footsteps of the debauchees of today."

"The day may come when we have to put bars on the windows of our homes to keep women who sneak from leaping out."

A law to prohibit serving drinks to unaccompanied women at bars or within eight feet of bars was introduced by Assemblyman Drohan in the New York State Assembly recently.

No woman with any self-respect would frequent a bar alone, Drohan said.

He did not object to women drinking moderately at home, but they must be careful not to offend children.

THIS FIRE IS 159 NOT OUT

A home-fire has been kept burning continuously by a mountain family for 159 years.

"The Fire" was started with flint and steel in 1788 by a pioneer family in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

The responsibility of keeping it alight was passed on through succeeding generations.

An octogenarian couple, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Owens, are the present fire tenders.

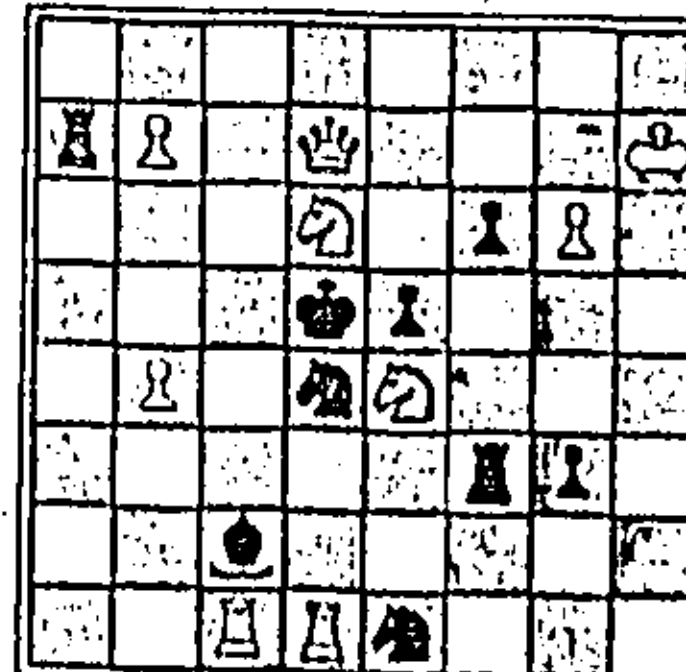
They have eight children, 22 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren to see that the fire remains burning after they die.

The fire has outlasted the original cabin where it was first set by Mrs. Owens' great-uncle, Thomas Dalton. The present cabin, 125 years old, was built of hand-hewn oak logs, and the fire was carefully transferred to its hearth.

CHESS PROBLEM

By S. C. DUTT

Black, 9 pieces



White, 9 pieces.
White to play and mate in two.

Solution to Saturday's problem:

1. Q. Q5, any; 2. Q. R, B, or P (ch, or dis ch) mates.

DUMB BELLS



McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Six Hearts Proves A Tight Squeeze

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

NOT long ago I had the pleasure of playing a game of bridge about the battleship "Missouri." My partner was Capt. Robert Dennison, who had just returned with President Truman from the Rio conference.

Although the captain is too busy to play much bridge, I have seldom seen a more enthusiastic player. We got a little overboard on today's hand, but that did not bother the captain a bit.

He lost the first trick to the ace of clubs, and when West came back with the queen of diamonds, Captain Dennison (North) won with the ace.

Dennison		J 8 6 2		Q 7 5
A K 10 8 6		5 3		J 10 8 8
A K		5		J 10 8 8
A 7 5 3 2		Dealer		J 10 8 8
A 10 8 4 3		J 10 4		J 10 8 8
4 2		K Q		J 10 8 8
Rubber—Neither vul.		South		West
1 Pass		2 Pass		3 Pass
4 Pass		5 Pass		6 Pass
Opening—A J		8		8

Two rounds of hearts cleared the opponents of trumps, and after a little study, he led the jack of spades.

You know the old saying, "Cover an honour with an honour." East outlandishly followed the rule and went up with the queen. The captain put on dummy's ace, looked anxiously at West, and sure enough West's singleton king dropped. Now of course he was able to spread the hand.

The captain said later that he figured he had about one chance in a thousand to make this hand. That is, if West held a singleton king or queen, and East made the mistake of covering the honour. It was that one chance in a thousand that paid off for Captain Dennison.

Check Your Knowledge

1. Why do Swiss mountain guides often insist on absolute silence?
2. The sinking of what vessel precipitated a war between the United States and Spain?
3. Does an ostrich use its wings to fly?
4. Is the Red Sea really red?
5. Why are the eggs of birds that breed on rock ledges, without building a nest, very pointed?
6. Name the king of England who was succeeded by a son and two daughters.

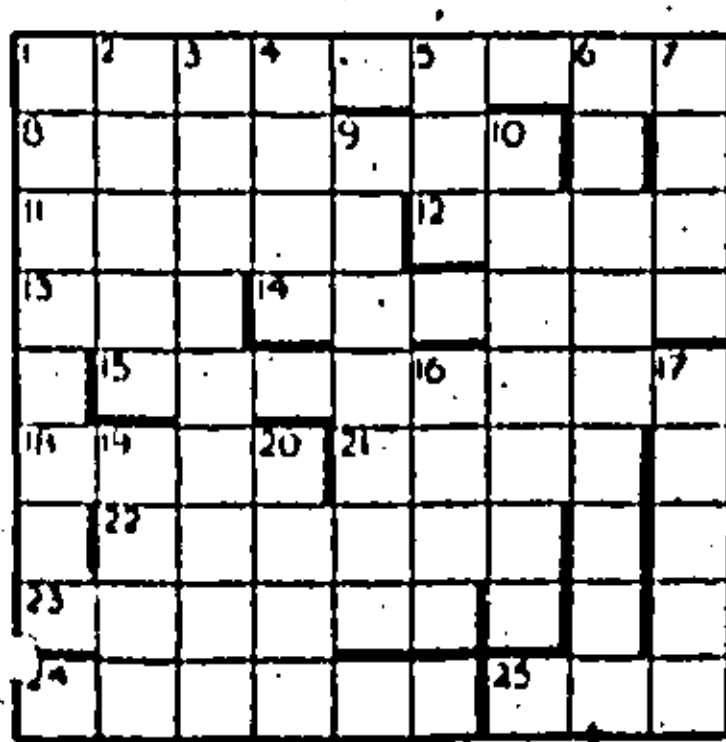
(Answers on Page 4)

Rupert's Silver Trumpet—14

The Goliwog leads Rupert away at a brisk trot, and the little cat Dinkie is determined not to be left behind. Straight up to the lonely part of the common they go and crossing the small ridge, Golly drops his sack into the back seat of the model airplane. "Is that yours?" Of course, it must be! gasps Rupert. "I see it all now," said it was simple," laughs Golly. "Now I must be off or these letters won't be answered by Christmas." ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



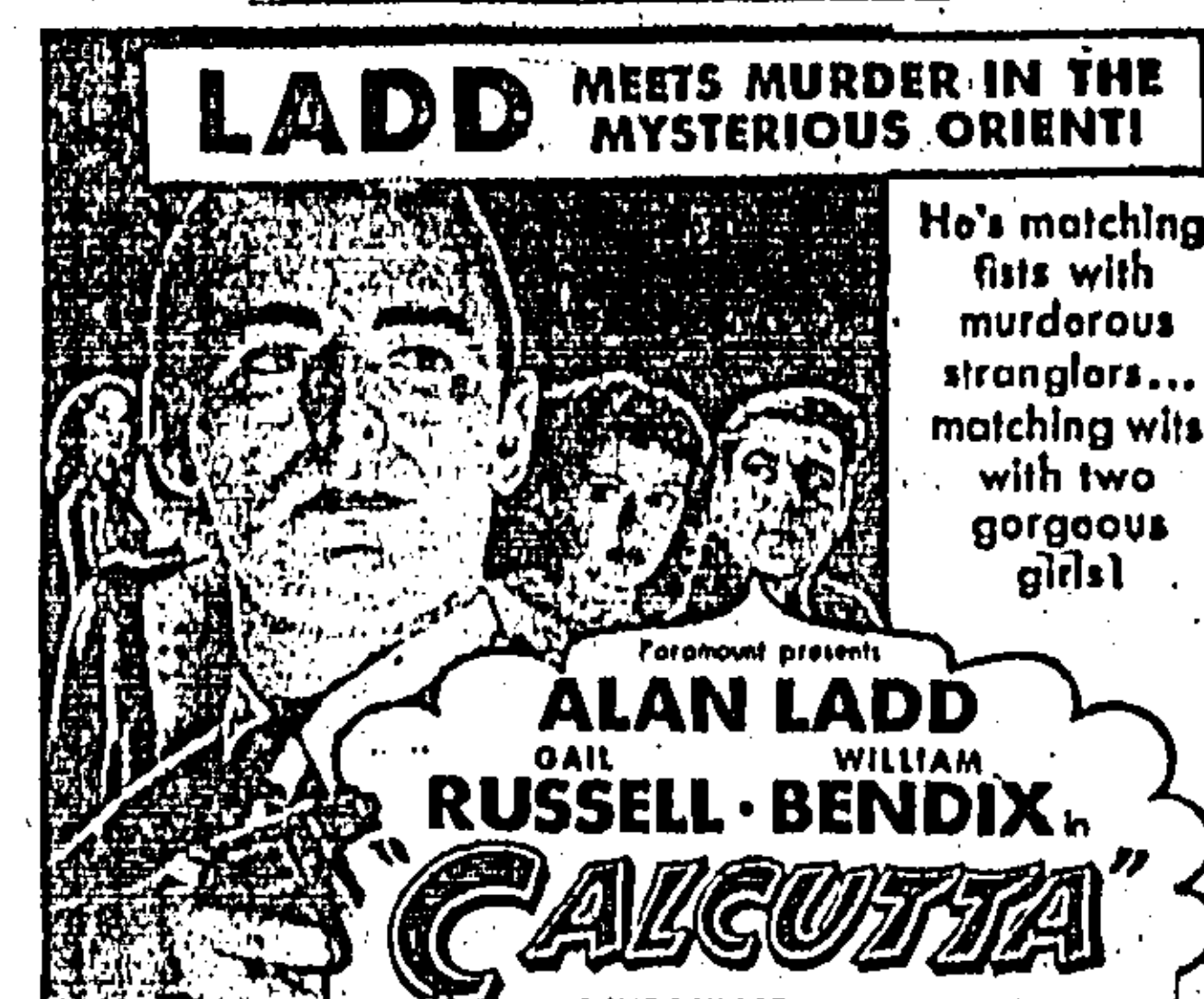
1. Stop just short of the site. (8)
2. Unhappy sort of individual. (6)
3. Ecstatic. (8)
4. One where of double figures. (4)
5. One appears when I get in a rage. (4)
6. What the forger may do to gain perfection. (5)
7. Outburst. (6)
8. Sam and Sue adopt this way. (6)
9. Leads towards writing. (5)
10. Down
1. A nutty colour. (8)
2. Where one may carry for refreshment. (8)
3. Hara at the keyboard. (9)
4. Ward in retreat. (4)
5. Tail end. (8)
6. Ideal and cute together explain. (6)
7. Girl's name. (4)
8. Neighbour to the Sphinx. (7)
9. Buttons. (4)
10. Once reserved for nobles, now the B.B.C. has raised the age limit. (8)
11. Flower. (4)
12. Biblical character. (4)

Across
1. Lower class thus will damp enthusiasm. (8, 8)
2. Not easily found in the alibi. (7)
3. Oct. (4)

SHOWING TO-DAY

KING'S

At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m.



SHE was a boom-town beauty!
HE was a rich, romantic rogue!
Their love story is gusty, lusty and glorious!

GREEN GARSON
WALTER PIDGEON

Stars of "Mrs. Miniver" in another triumph—

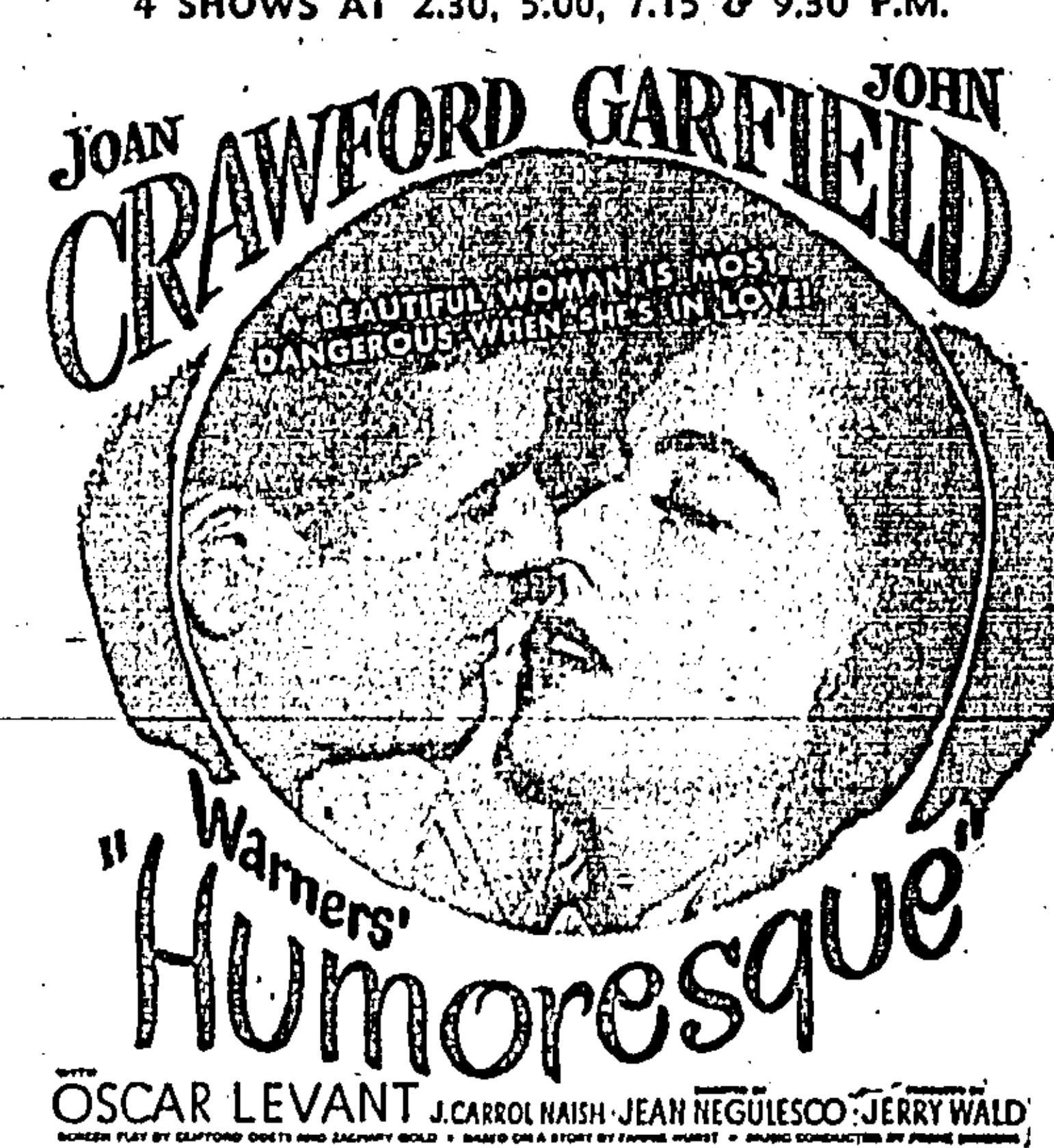
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Gladys COOPER • Frances RAFFERTY • Tom DRAKE
Peter LAWford • Dan DURYEA • Hugh MARLOWE
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— To-morrow —

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"JUNGLE BOOK" IN TECHNICOLOR!

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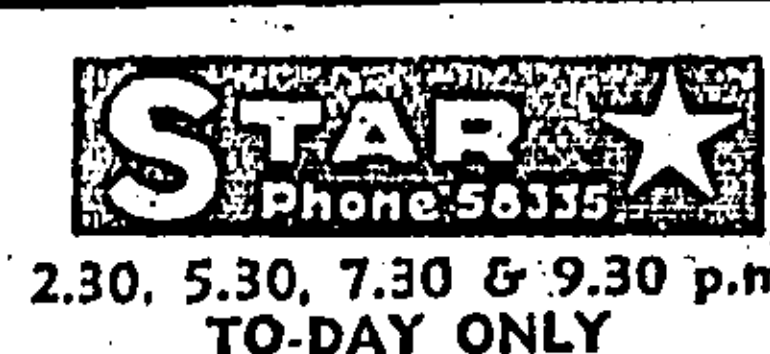
They Gave their Lives.

We, too, may give through the HONGKONG WAR MEMORIAL FUND.

Send your donation to the Hon. Treasurers
Lowe, Bingham & Matthews
Mercantile Bank Bldg.

DARKNESS WAS A KILLER

America's Street Lighting Bureau found that four times as many people are killed in three hours after sunset as in the same number of hours before sunset. More than 10,000 people met death on U.S. roads during 1947, the result of poor lighting. The overall road toll was 33,700 in 1946. Full 1947 figures will show a 10 percent increase, the Nat'l Safety Council estimates.



TO-morrow & Wednesday
"THE MAN I LOVE"
starring
Ida Lupino & Robert Alda

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Advertisers are requested to note that not less than 24 hours notice prior to the day of publication should be given for all commercial display advertisements, change of copy etc. Notices and Classified Advertisements will be received up till 4.30 a.m. for the following day.

ANTI-SOVIET LEAFLETS IN HELSINKI

Helsinki, Feb. 29.—Leaflets attacking Russia and Marshal Stalin, who has proposed a Russo-Finnish treaty of friendship and mutual military assistance, were being spread here today by an unknown organisation which the police are trying to track down.

The leaflets declared: "We are now independent in name only. Our vital importance concerns are being decided in Moscow. It is time to put an end to this underground game."

"The fate the Estonians suffered awaits all Finns, sooner or later. Stalin has not forgotten and will never forget his wartime promise: 'All Finns shall be exterminated from the face of the earth.'"

"He began to carry out this promise in Estonia. Now your turn is coming."

The wildest rumours were circulating in the city today. One reported the Red flag had already been hoisted outside the Houses of Parliament.

In fact, it was the Soviet flag flying alongside the flags of other countries taking part in the world skating championships here.—Reuter.

Soviet Request

Helsinki, Feb. 29.—The Soviet Minister in Helsinki, Lt. Gen. Savonenkov, was tonight reported to have asked the Finnish authorities for a complete list of active officers of the Finnish Army.

There was no official confirmation of this, but it was understood that a communiqué might be issued later.

In Stockholm, observers believe that the Russian request indicated that the Soviets may press for the dismissal of anti-Soviet officers when negotiating for the proposed mutual assistance pact between the two countries.

After the armistice of 1944, a group of Army officers organised a secret force "against any foreign power trying to occupy Finland."—Reuter.

SAUDI ARABIA TO CANCEL OIL RIGHTS

Cairo, Mar. 1.—Saudi Arabia will cancel American oil concessions and order Americans out of the country immediately "when the Arab governments take a joint decision to cancel American concessions." Emir Feisal of Saudi Arabia told a Cairo newspaper yesterday.

Feisal, who is Foreign Minister of the oil-rich desert kingdom, discussed the situation arising from American support of Palestine partition in an interview with Al Miski, representative at the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah.

Oil is Saudi Arabia's only resource.

Alyad Bey El Solh, Premier of the Lebanon, told the Associated Press a few days ago that the Arab League has agreed to prevent the proposed American pipeline from Saudi Arabia offshoots to the Mediterranean from operating in any Arab state.

The Arab League comprises representatives of seven Arab governments.—Associated Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If mail close before 10 a.m., registered and parcels will close at 5 p.m. the previous day.

MONDAY, MARCH 1

Closing Times By Air

Amoy, Shanghai, Hankow, Canton, Tientsin, Peking, Nanking, Hongkong, Kowloon, 3.30 p.m.

Canton, Luchow & Kuning 3.30 p.m.

Hankow (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Swatow & Foochow (Ord.) 3.30 p.m.

Closing Times By Sea & Train

Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 2 p.m.

Canton (Train) 2 p.m.

Saloon, Colombo, East & South Africa, Egypt & Marseilles (Sea) 2 p.m.

Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 4 p.m.

Canton (Train) 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Closing Times By Air

Amoy (Ord.) 9.20 a.m.

Shanghai (Ord.) 9.20 a.m.

Bangkok, Rangoon, Calcutta, Karachi, Bombay, Madras, Ceylon, Java, Hongkong, Kowloon, 9.20 a.m.

Canton, Luchow & Kuning 9.20 a.m.

Hankow (Ord.) 9.20 a.m.

Swatow & Foochow (Ord.) 9.20 a.m.

Closing Times By Sea & Train

Macao, Tainan & Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m.

Canton (Train) 8 a.m.

Saloon, Colombo, East & South Africa, Egypt & Marseilles (Sea) 10 a.m.

Z.B.W. BROADCASTS

ILLUSTRATED: Studio: Hospital Request Half Hour, Presented by Ethel Holmes Brown, 8.30. A. Week Programme: 7. London Relay: World and Home News, 7.35. Studio: "I Like What I Like" Presented by Peter Lewis, 7.40. BBC Transcription Service: "Grumpy" by Horace Jones. A Comedy with Cyril Maude in his original part: 8.45. BBC: "My Songs for You": 9. London Relay: News, 9.10. Weather Report: 9.11. Studio: Raymond and His Hawaiian Band: 9.20. English Composers: Butterworth: 9.40. London Relay: "The Arts Today": 10. London Relay: Radio Newsweek: 10.15. "Something for Everybody": 11. Close Down.

PLANE HIT BY FLARE

London, Feb. 29.—One engine of a Swiss Dakota aircraft, carrying 14 passengers from Zurich, was hit by a flare when coming in to land at fog-bound Northolt Airport in London today.

The pilot's prompt action in switching off the engine and landing on one engine prevented the possibility of fire breaking out. No one was hurt.

An official of the ground contact caravan, thinking the Dakota's undercarriage was going to hit the caravan roof, was said to have fired, the red flare which lodged itself in the port engine and narrowly missed the oilpipe.—Reuter.

CAPITAL OF THE YEMEN BESIEGED

Cairo, Mar. 1.—Sanaa, capital of the Yemen, whose ruler, the Imam Yehia, was recently assassinated, is now "completely besieged" by forces of Prince Ahmed, the late Imam Yehia's eldest son, said Sayed Ali Al Muneed, Yemen representative in Cairo.

Al Muneed said he had received a cable from Ahmed, stating: "Sanaa is completely besieged. Majority of regular army joined us with full equipment. More regular troops are escaping from Sanaa and joining our forces."

Al Muneed said the Yemen's regular army consists of 25,000 soldiers. He also said that Salf El Islam Abdullah, another son of the late Imam Yehia and who is now in Paris, advised him that he is coming to Egypt.

Al Muneed advised Azam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, of civil war in Yemen by cable to the vessel Farouk, now en route to the Yemen with an Arab League delegation hoping to mediate. Ahmed has proclaimed himself Imam of Yemen and is opposing the government of Abdullah Bin Ahmed Al Wazir, who holds Sanaa.—Associated Press.

League Mission Leaves

Cairo, Feb. 29.—The advance party of the Arab League mission of inquiry into the reported Yemen fighting has left Sanaa, the mountain capital of the Yemen, for "security reasons," according to information reaching official quarters here.—Reuter.

GALES DRIVE SHIP ASHORE

Valetta, Malta, Feb. 29.—Tempestuous seas and gales of hurricane force which almost brought the British Mediterranean Fleet to a standstill for three days during exercises, have driven a Newcastle merchantman, the Wallsend, aground at Cap Bon, on the northeastern tip of Tunisia.

The British cruiser Phoebe was standing by the Wallsend, whose crew was in no immediate danger. The gale tonight continued unabated in its fury. Members of the Fleet's lighthouse, at the entrance to Malta Grand Harbour, have been manœuvred for three days by the huge waves crashing astride the breakwater, which is the only contact with the mainland.

Two British troopships, the 20,174-ton Franconia and the 10,118-ton Arundel Castle, which reached Malta waters on Saturday, have not been able to enter the Grand Harbour owing to the high seas.

Slight damage was caused to units of the British Fleet which, encountering the gales and huge seas while exercising in the Western Mediterranean during the weekend, virtually hove to for three days, a naval headquarters announcement said today.

The 9,717-ton hospital ship Dorsetshire, on her way to Britain, from Tobruk, has been ordered to drop the call she was due to make at the island.—Reuter.

Death Of Mr A.M.L. Soares

One of Hongkong's best known Portuguese residents, Mr. Adão Maria de Lourdes Soares, died early this morning after a long illness. He was 69 years of age.

An unofficial Justice of the Peace, the late Mr. Soares was born in Hongkong. He retired from the firm of A. M. L. Soares and Co some years ago.

A founder of the Club Lusitano, he was made a life member. He also founded the Soares scholarship at the Hongkong University open to Portuguese students in the Colony.

He was a prominent race horse owner in his early days and raced regularly at the Hongkong Jockey Club for many years.

He leaves a family of three sons and three daughters.

The funeral will pass the Monument at 5.15 p.m. tomorrow.

SOVIET MOVE IN FAR EAST SEEN LIKELY

London, Feb. 29.—The deterioration of the military situation of the Nanking Government forces in the Chinese civil war, combined with increasingly pessimistic American appreciations of the prospects of decisively checking the Chinese Communists in the military field, has led some observers here to speculate on the possibility of an impending Soviet move in the Far East.

The long standing deadlock among the great powers over the question of calling a Far Eastern peace conference, which threatens to exclude Russia from an effective voice in decisions affecting Japan, may, it is argued, have tempted Moscow to accelerate the extension of the Communist, and consequently of the Russian, hold on the Far Eastern mainland.—Reuter.

Division Of Europe

London, Feb. 29.—What are the real motives underlying the timing of the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia and the Soviet demand to Finland to prepare to conclude a military treaty of mutual assistance with the Soviet Union?

This is the most burning question of a week which, on both sides of the iron curtain, has marked a new phase in the division of postwar Europe into two camps.

For many months, realistic observers here had regarded as inevitable the total communication of the regimes in those countries inside the Soviet sphere of influence where the now familiar process was still incomplete.

What has startled the world is that the Czechoslovak crisis should have been handled so brutally and so swiftly.

The pressure on Finland, announced immediately after the change of government in Prague, strengthens the impression that Moscow has decided that the urgency of consolidating her European strongholds beyond her political backing, transcends any considerations of world opinion or Soviet relations with the other great powers.

Major Move?

The argument that general elections are pending both in Czechoslovakia and in Finland, and that the Communists preferred to secure the position in advance against possible reverses is not considered here as a sufficient explanation of the events in Prague or of the urgent terms in which the Soviet note to Finland is couched.

SPORT:

Featherweight Title Annexed By Del Rosario

Manila, Feb. 29.—Tirso del Rosario, featherweight champion of the Philippines, last night annexed the featherweight championship of the Orient by decisively defeating David Young, the Chinese Hawaiian-born bantamweight southpaw, before a record crowd of 12,000 cheering fans at the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Unleashing a savage two-fisted attack following a slow start, the local champion, weighing 126 pounds, won a decision over Young, who topped the scales at 118 pounds, over a 10-round bout.—Reuter.

CERDAN LOOKS AHEAD

New York, Feb. 29.—Marcel Cerdan, European middleweight champion, arrived from Paris today and said he is looking past the March 12 fight with Laverne Roach to a shot at Rocky Graziano in a championship bout.—United Press.

VETERAN'S PLUCK

Paris, Feb. 29.—Pedro Maesip, the Spanish champion, had to battle hard against veteran Henri Cochet of France in the finals before he won the men's singles event in the French covered courts lawn tennis championships at Lyons today.

Cochet, one of the famous French "muscleballs" team of 20 years ago, brought Maesip to five sets, the Spanish champion winning by 7-5, 6-4, 2-6, 2-6, 6-4.—Reuter.

SPEED SKATING

Helsinki, Feb. 29.—John Werket, of the United States, won the 1,500 metres event in two minutes 22.3 seconds when the world speed skating championships were continued here today.

Brockman of Holland was second in two minutes 22.6 seconds; Ake Seyffarth of Sweden third in two minutes and 23.2 seconds, and Odd Lundberg of Norway fourth in two minutes 23.4 seconds.—Reuter.

New Ambassador To Sweden

London, Feb. 29.—Mr. Harold Farquhar, Minister to Ethiopia, has been appointed British Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Sweden, the Foreign Office announced tonight.—Reuter.

Michael In Paris

Paris, Feb. 29.—Ex-King Michael of Rumania and Princess Anne of Bourbon-Parma arrived in Paris today by road from Lausanne.—Reuter.

Among the explanations put forward by political observers here, the following appear to be the most inherently probable:

1. That Moscow, in the face of evidence that the Western powers are increasingly co-ordinating their forces to secure a democratic solution to the problems of Western Europe, has decided to be ready to concentrate unilaterally Soviet attention on the ideological battle for Germany and the rest of Europe.

2. That the demonstration of Communist power in Czechoslovakia is primarily aimed at Italy, where it is intended to strengthen the Italian Communists' hand in the April elections.

3. That both the Czechoslovakia and Finnish moves have been deliberately timed to distract attention from a major Russian action somewhere.

Effect On London Talks

Whatever the true motive for the Communist offensive, its timing must have been considered of crucial importance to allow it to coincide with the London talks on Germany between the United States, Britain and France.

It is certain that it will have a profound effect on the temper and urgency of the consultations between the three Western powers.

If the American prophets of an impending final rift in Germany prove right, then the remaining days of the London conference are likely to be increasingly devoted to discussion of something very like the strategic economic organisation of Western Germany for self-preservation against Communist encroachment.—Reuter.

House Report

Washington, Feb. 29.—The House Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee today called on the United States to take the lead in fencing off Communist Russia from the non-Communist world or face a "violent" global revolution.

The Committee issued a long report called "The Strategy and Tactics of World Communism" to the Senate President, Arthur Vandenberg, prepared to open a Congressional debate on the European recovery programme. It is one of the most stinging denunciations of the Red philosophy objectives ever issued by an arm of the Federal government and draws these "simple conclusions of the Soviet policy":

1. World Communism has one goal—world revolution. 2. They assume that the revolution will be violent. 3. They are incapable of accepting the idea that peace can endure from now on, and they expect one more catastrophic war.

The report does not stop with that indictment. It warns Americans that they are "playing with a loaded die" when they join "ultra democratic groups" used by the Communists to advance their ends.

It adds that the Communists have infiltrated into labour groups, organisations boosting civil rights, clean politics movements and liberal groups of all kinds.

The Antidote

The Committee is headed by Representative Francis B. Bolton (Republican of Ohio) and its report came on the 100th anniversary of the "Communist Manifesto," the touchstone of Soviet policy. The Committee's antidote for world Communism is an all-out effort to establish an economically strong non-Communist bloc headed by the United States and including Western Europe, China, Near East countries and the Western Hemisphere.

Vandenberg is expected to take a similar stand when he formally speaks on the 51-month \$7,300,000,000 European recovery programme before the Senate.

He hopes that the Senate can vote on the plan by March 15. He said quick action is even more urgent in view of the Communist coup in Czechoslovakia and new pressure on Finland.

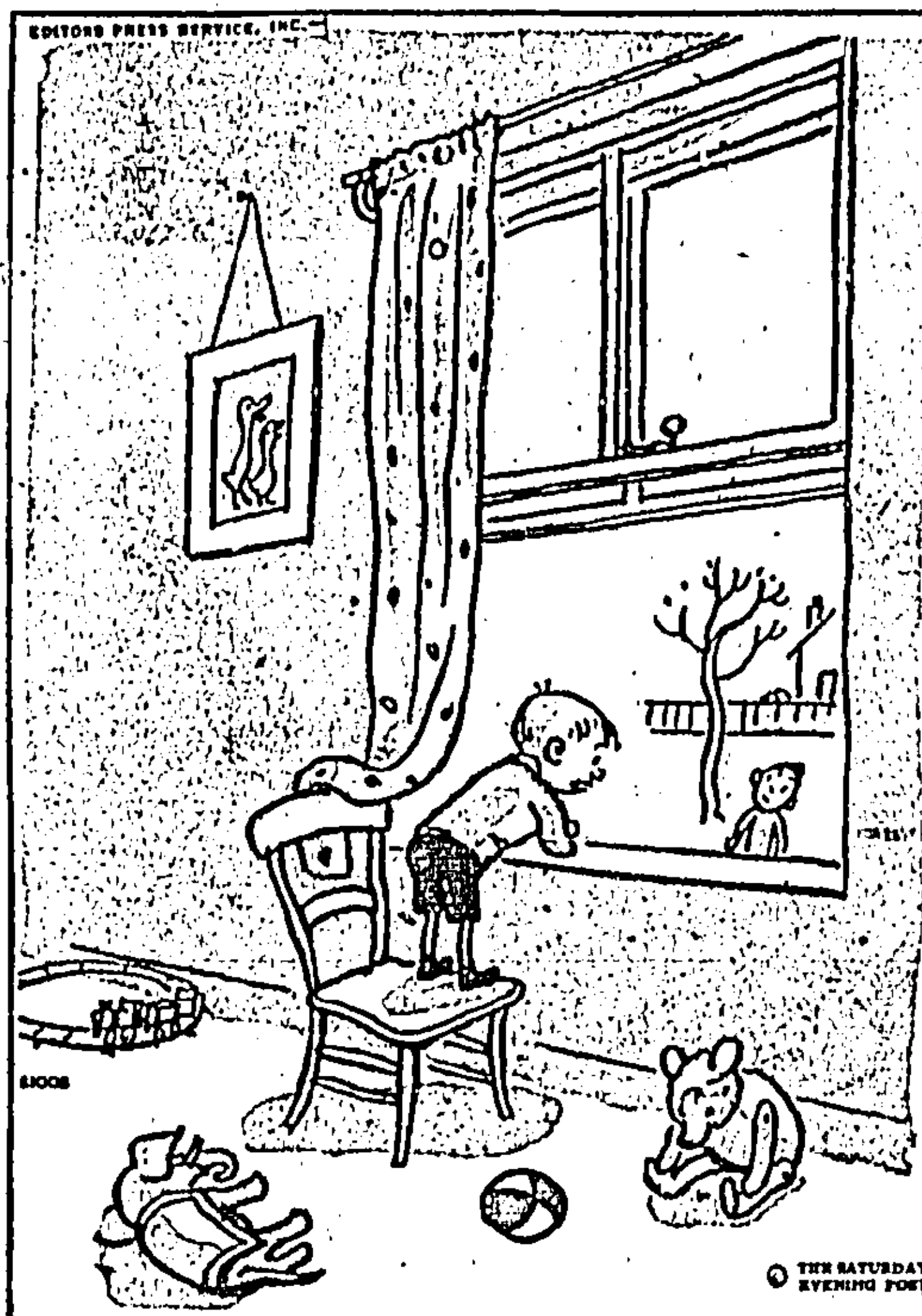
After the recovery programme is disposed of, Vandenberg's Senate Foreign Relations Committee will begin hearings on President Truman's new requests for \$275,000,000 for military aid to Greece and Turkey and \$370,000,000 for China.

Chopping Down Aid

Meanwhile, Senator Joseph Ball said he would present the Republican "revisionists" with his plan for chopping \$1,800,000,000 off the first year's European recovery programme request at a meeting "on Tuesday." He declined to predict how much support his move could muster.

The report said that in the east the Soviets "are pressing on China, a special case where tactics are more varied and more resources are applicable than anywhere else."

It listed India, Indo-China, and Indonesia among countries reflecting increased Communist resources. It said: "Under the peripheral area under Soviet control, the potential staging areas for an attack by which ever side controls them. In the Communist thinking, Germany and Japan have just this character. They are near enough and industrially strong enough to be capable for a dangerous scale attack in either direction. It gives time and opportunity and with the backing of the Soviets. They therefore are hot squares on the chessboard."—United Press.



Kurds Organise With Russian Assistance

Teheran, Feb. 29.—The Barzani Kurdish tribesmen, who fled to the Soviet Union last year after their defeat by the Persian Army, are, according to the Persian Government, organising armed bands—with the assistance of the Soviet authorities—with the intention of recrossing the border into Persian territory.

HITLER'S IDEAL WOMAN ARRESTED

Stuttgart, Feb. 29.—Hitler's "ideal German woman" and former women's leader of the Nazi Party, Frau Gertrud Scholz-Klink, who was photographed smiling at London babies when she visited Britain shortly before the war, was arrested with her husband at Badenhausen, near Tuebingen, in the French zone of Germany, last night.

The 55-year-old woman, who once had power over 35,000,000 German women, said when arrested: "I fought in Berlin to the end as it behoves a German woman, and I was wounded as a soldier."

Brusque and hostile to the French and American officials who questioned her, she declared: "I was not afraid to die for my beloved Fuehrer."

A poison pill was found on her husband, SS General Werner Heilmeyer, former senior group leader of the SS in charge of ideological education, when he was arrested.

The couple were living at Badenhausen under the assumed name of Stuckebrock.

Frau Scholz-Klink said that when the end came in Berlin, she was taken prisoner by the Russians but was eventually released without being recognised.

"Only when the German and American press reported that I had perished with Hitler in the 'bunker' of the Berlin Chancellery did I decide to assume the false name of Stuckebrock," she explained after a short attempt to deny her identity. She then found a new home in the French zone with her husband.—Reuter.

Aborigines Of India Demand Own Province

Ranchi, Bihar, Feb. 29.—Thousands of Adibasis (aborigines), carrying lathis (batons) and bows and arrows, yesterday paraded through the streets of Ranchi, the summer capital of Bihar and former 14th Army rear base, shouting slogans and demanding a separate province of Adibasis.

Jajpal Singh, the Adibasis leader and member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, urged the creation of such a province to be known as "Jharkhand."

Jajpal Singh, who is presiding over an all-Indian Adibasis conference, said the province should consist of aboriginal tracts of the Chota Napur division of Bihar, the district of Santhal Pargannas and certain states, including Seraikella and Keonjhar.

He accused the Congress Government of Bihar of hostility towards the Adibasis movement for a separate province, while he claimed the rest of India was sympathetic to it.—Reuter.

Schuman's Warning To France

Paris, Feb. 29.—The Premier, M. Robert Schuman, tonight said that France, in the military sense, "was behind and had no time to lose."

Addressing a national rally of the Popular Republican Party, M. Schuman added: "I do not speak because there is a particular urgency, but because there is always an urgency in this respect."

He described France as one of the last bastions of civilisation, declaring: "It is not enough for us to draw another iron curtain to guarantee our security."

"Uncertainty prevails everywhere. Anything may happen. Nothing is inevitable either within this country or outside."

"We must not show exaggerated pessimism but we must anticipate everything."

"We must keep our eyes open beyond our frontiers, and in this respect I do not judge European affairs only in relation to the U.S.S.R."

"We know that in France we must exert to restore well-being to our country. By social peace and justice we shall present the most effective opposition to Communism."—Reuter.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE Answers

1. Because a loud shout may start an avalanche when a mass of snow and ice is poised on a mountainside. 2. The "Mime." 3. No. It uses them as sails to increase its speed while running. 4. Yes. Its dull, red tint is caused by millions of microscopic plants called algae. 5. So that the egg will roll around in a small circle instead of rolling off the ledge. 6. Henry VIII, father of Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth.

NOTICE

THE "STAR" FERRY CO., LTD.

Notice To Shareholders

NOTICE is hereby given that the forty-sixth Ordinary Yearly Meeting of the Members of this Company will be held at the Office of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd., on Wednesday the 17th day of March, 1948, at Noon, to receive the Report of the Board of Directors and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1947, to elect Directors and to appoint Auditors. Notice is also given that the Transfer Books of the Company will be closed from the 4th March, 1948, to the 17th March, 1948, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

C. E. TERRY,
Manager & Secretary.

Hongkong, 20th February, 1948.

NOTICE

HONGKONG AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Board Room of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Company's Offices on Friday, 5th March, 1948, at 5.30 p.m.

Business: Election of Officers and Committee for the ensuing year and any other matters.

Members are urged to attend this important meeting.

T. E. JACKSON,

Chairman, Interim Committee.

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TO-DAY & TO-MORROW **Cathay** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.

THE TARZAN—THRILLS ADVENTURE OF ALL TIME!
SAVAGE JUNGLE TRIBES MIGHTY CONFLICT!



NEXT CHANGE
Barbara STANWYCK • Robert CUMMINGS in
"THE BRIDE WORE BOOTS"